

## RITUAL 5 – RSL FUNERAL SERVICE FOR NON-RETURNED MEMBERS

This ritual may only be used with the prior consent of the relatives of the deceased member.  
At the appropriate time in the service, as agreed with the Minister or Celebrant, the RSL Sub-Branch President or a nominated representative says (*address may be altered to suit circumstances*):

“We are assembled here today to pay our last tribute to... **(Name)** ... who served with us in the defence of the Nation. How well he served will be known to his former comrades, some who are gathered here today; while many will have shared his service and community responsibilities through our association in the RSL.

### *(Personal details here)*

“Remembering his many qualities and the happy times we spent together – we join in a silent pledge – to sink all differences, one with the other – and extend the hand of comradeship to all in need as ... **(Name)** ... would have us do, and to carry on the RSL tradition of unselfish service – to the disabled, to the bereaved and maintain the highest ideals of citizenship.”

With Poppy in hand the speaker says:

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”

All present repeat: “We will remember them.”

Speaker says:

“As a token of our affectionate and proud remembrance, I place here a red poppy – the symbol of sacrifice – and invite others to join me in doing so.”

The speaker drops or places his poppy on the casket and motions other persons to file past and follow suit.

The speaker says:

“Please stand and join with me, reverently, in a silent tribute to ... **(Name)** ...”

All present stand at attention with heads bowed.

The Last Post is then played.

The silence is broken by the speaker saying

“Lest we forget.” (Repeated by all present)

followed by Reveille.

This completes the service.